



FORGING YOUNG FEMINIST FRIENDSHIPS

CEECCNA
Convening Report



FRIDA | THE YOUNG FEMINIST FUND

FRIDA | The Young Feminist Fund is the only youth-led fund focused exclusively on supporting global young feminist activism to advance social justice movements and agendas. FRIDA envisions a world where young women, girls, trans and intersex youth are recognised as experts of their own reality, enjoying their human rights and building a more just and sustainable world through collective power and transformative leadership. FRIDA provides accessible and strategic funding for newly established young feminist-led initiatives through a participatory grant-making process. It aims to strengthen their capacity to leverage additional resources, enhance their impact, increase commitments from donors and allies, and build partnerships to boost young feminist activism.

Acknowledgements

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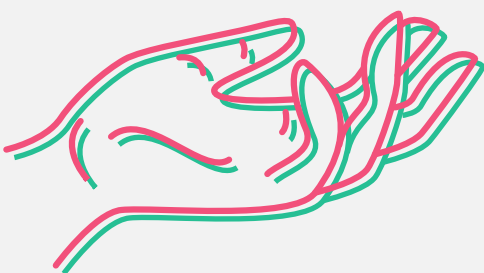
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NB*: The abbreviation CEECCNA throughout the report refers to the geographical region that covers Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus (North/South), Central and North Asia.

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I. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

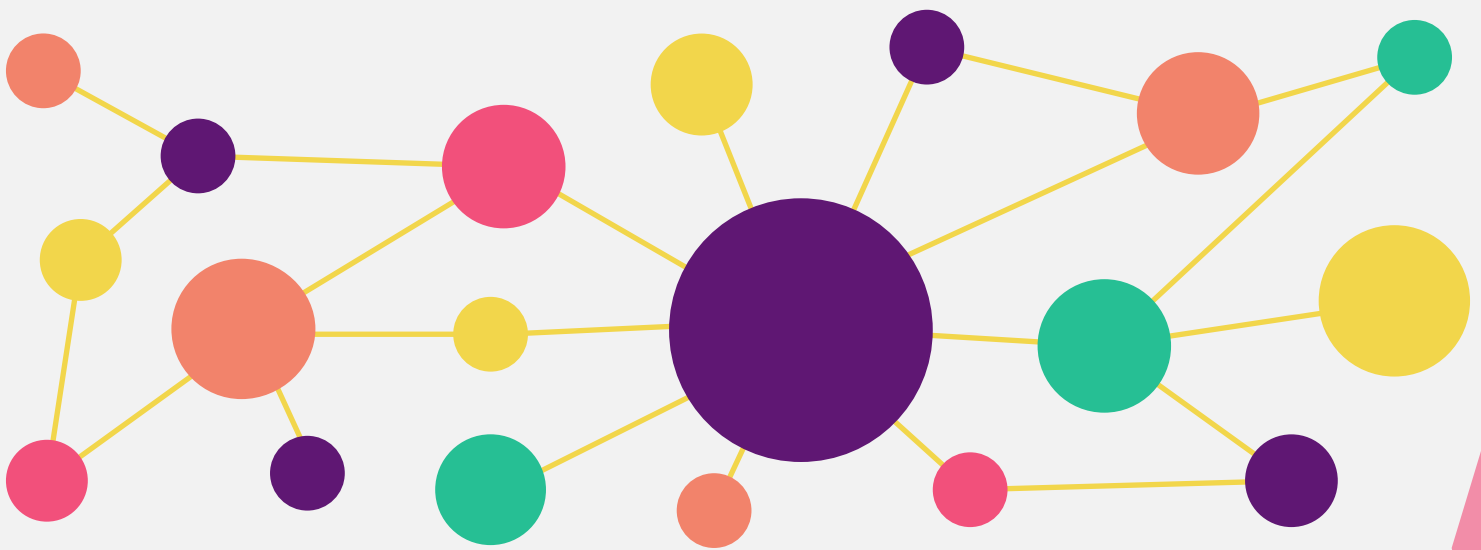
In September 2018, FRIDA | The Young Feminist Fund organized the very first Central and Eastern Europe, Caucasus (North/South), Central and North Asia (CEECCNA) regional convening of young feminist activists along with a Regional Advisory Meeting. This convening gathered almost 60 participants from the FRIDA community members: grantee partners, advisors, board members, staff and local partners.

CEECCNA is a big and diverse region, and yet remains one of the most underrepresented regions in global social justice movements and is increasingly excluded from philanthropic spaces and funding conversations.

Since its establishment, FRIDA has supported young feminist activism in the region, which has contributed to increased leadership of girls, young women, and trans youth which in turn increased collective power and impact on larger social justice movements in the region.

Listening to the needs and priorities of FRIDA community in CEECCNA articulated through conversations and surveys, FRIDA felt it was politically important to support the creation of physical space for the groups in the region to celebrate the young feminist movement by uplifting local struggles and connecting across geographies. In the grantee partner and advisor surveys conducted by FRIDA that was completed by 40 people, this convening was one of the long - awaited events for young feminist movement in the region and played a crucial role in (re) -connecting and strengthening relationships among activists.

Guided by its general approach of organizing convenings, which is driven from the five core values of the organization: Flexibility, Resources, Inclusivity, Diversity, and Action, FRIDA's role is not to dominate the space, but rather allow and enable it to be driven by activists themselves. In practical terms, this means moving from a position of power as a funder, to adopting the position of a catalyst that designs the space and process, not overstepping its space in the actual room, being respectful of the power dynamics and mindful of how and when we engage.



¹ Convening participants were from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Georgia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovenia, Turkey, Ukraine

² For more information see data on the State of Global Foundation Grantmaking - <https://humanrightsfunding.org/regions/eastern-europe/>

³ Read the full report on FRIDA's approach to Young Feminist Convenings: <https://youngfeministfund.org/FRIDA-YoungFeministsConverging.pdf>

⁴ This approach is flexible and is modified according to the context, situation or any external causes that might arise.

Contextualising the CEECCNA Convening:

□ The CEECCNA convening was co-created together with the FRIDA community (grantee partners, advisors, staff and board) embodying FRIDA's participatory approach in each stage of the process, including the meeting location, agenda design, peer learning and eventually, creating the convening report

△ FRIDA partnered with a local feminist and a sister organization - "Helping Hand and CSDC" that supported with advise and logistics. Important to note that logistics was fully carried out by all local feminist crew - from the logistics coordinator (Nukri Tabidze), airport pick-up crew (Nino Gamisonia, Phikria Jgarkava, Sopho Tskhvariashvili), to photographer (Mariam Gabritchidze) and cameraperson (Salome Sagradze) to city tour organizers (Independent Group of Feminists).

◇ In order to have sufficient language representation that ensures diversity of experiences without language barriers, the interpretations were done in two languages: English and Russian by a trained and gender-sensitive translators. Participants themselves were taking part in making sure that regardless of any language barriers, all were included in the conversations, therefore, supporting translators as needed. For example, participants from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia helped in translating to Bosnian from English.

○ Committing to activist driven process beyond the convening, FRIDA ensured to contribute to the realisation of the ideas sparked after CEECCNA convening. A month later, FRIDA opened call for proposals among participants and through collective decision making process enabled interested community members to engage across themes and across regions beyond the meeting.



In addition, CEECCNA regional meeting has created a unique space where feminist groups represented by young women, girls, and LGBTQIA+ communities working at the intersections of gender based violence, sexual and reproductive health & rights, climate justice, migrant and labor rights and more had an opportunity to openly discuss their struggles, collectively envision different futures and celebrate the amazing activist work that has been ongoing in each of their countries.

Simultaneously, this convening has also served as a learning space for FRIDA to understand how to better support and advocate for regional young feminist organizing in the next 5 years.



This publication outlines main conversations and learnings generated in that space. **The purpose of creating this report is to capture present-day challenges and lived experiences of the young feminist activists across the region and use the first hand data to advocate for more resources that are based on the priority issues, themes, and topics identified by the participants themselves.** The recommendations of this publication invites human rights funders and relevant stake-holders to explore ways of supporting young feminist organizing in the region with flexible, long-term support, which could also go beyond monetary funding support. Overall, the document shows ways of FRIDA's engagement in catalyzing political, caring, and horizontal spaces where grassroots activists are invited to co-create their own feminist realities and futures. We encourage readers to learn and hear what young feminist activists from the CEECCNA region are saying and bring the issues, topics and needs discussed in this publication into conversations at various feminist, human rights and funder as well as other relevant spaces.

II. CONVERSATIONS AND LEARNINGS

LEADING: Emergence of independent (grassroots) feminist activism with new energy

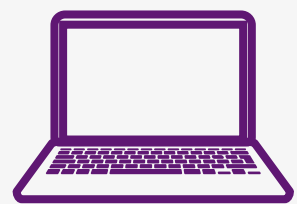
Based on the conversations held during the convening, it is evident that young feminists are building alternative ways of organizing and bringing strong feminist voices into existing social justice movements and are focused on building cross-regionally, cross- thematically and intergenerationally.

Having such a powerful and energetic crowd of fearless feminists in one space was nothing short of magical! With this very first convening, **FRIDA has celebrated the fact that newly emerged young feminist organizers' impact on regional social justice movement is undeniable and it is becoming increasingly evident.** Thanks to young feminist organizing, the feminist movement has become more powerful than ever before!

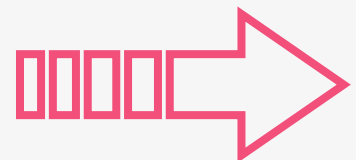
The convening participants themselves are an integral part of the growing independent grassroots feminist movement. They redefine traditional NGOized work model and practice participatory decision making in their activist work. Working horizontally and participating equally is part of their political vision to address hierarchical and exploitative nature of traditional work models that are practiced even within social justice movements.

They use diverse approaches to organizing in different subregions and even within the same country.

Online feminist activism emerged as one of the most widely used methods of raising awareness about gender based violence, sexual and reproductive rights as well as advance general feminist thinking. Online spaces are deemed as another space for political struggle and increasingly used for community mobilization and urgent response.



Direct actions is another method used by feminist collectives to protest injustice and celebrate feminist movement achievements. These actions could happen in the form of public strikes whether in the streets, in the government offices, during official and unofficial conferences, court hearings etc.



Festivals and camps continue to be used as horizontal learning and exchange spaces among movement organizers that allow them to connect across themes, countries and regions.



NAMING:

Where “new energy” meets not-so-new challenges

During the convening, the participants talked about the obstacles that young feminist organizing faces. One of the issues discussed relates to the fragmentation, divide, and lack of stronger collaboration within the larger women’s rights and feminist movements as well as increased tension with the general human rights movements. The participants shared a few reasons that contribute to this phenomenon:



One of them is **ageism**. Young feminists are not seen as equal partners and dismissed in strategic conversations for not having sufficient amount of adult-centric experience. As one of the participants (Zhanna, Kyrgyzstan) a teenage activist shares: “It is considered that young people are the future, but simultaneously we are seen by older generations as someone having limitless energy to work for their agenda. There are many teenage girls participating in everyday struggles for justice, however, we are left unnoticed and unacknowledged”.

While feminist discourses are gaining popularity in different regions of the world, grassroots feminist activists still face stigma for who they are and the taboo-breaking work they do. One of the participants from Russia shares: “In our context, people are afraid of the word “feminism” and that’s why they try not to identify themselves with feminism”.

Working in these conditions often lead movement organizers to **burn out and become demotivated**, impacting young women, girls, trans and intersex youth leaders’ wellbeing, which consequently makes the movement itself unsustainable. When sharing their personal experience of “what it means to be a feminist activist”, one participant [Marinella, Croatia] shared that **“Being an activist means constant struggle for funding, in addition to precarious work conditions with administrative challenges from most non-feminist funders and constant attacks from different anti-women groups. You are being torn between communities needs and administrative requirements”**.



Lastly, one of the reasons relates to **little, siloed, project-oriented funding**. In this time of shrinking space for civil society^{5,6}, some of the funders have left the region, some have de-funded certain issues in the region, thus leaving the feminist movement here with less resources, increased the existing divide within the movement and consequently contribute to growing competition over limited funds. Despite the lack of funding, some young feminist groups find ways to increase collaborations. As one participant said: "A lack of funding makes us competitive instead of connected, but sometimes this also motivates us to collaborate more to sustain the movement."



The CEECCNA region is one of the most under-funded regions in the global social justice movements with limited access to local resources as funding grassroots feminist activism is not a priority either for governments or for the mainstream donors operating in the region. One of the participants from Ukraine explains: "initiatives that are important don't get any funding. In the context of my country, there are some other priorities, like militarism."

The participants have shared that women's funds are sometimes the only source of funding in their contexts, however, with a limited budget it's hard to sustain the feminist organizing and therefore, the activists are open to explore ways to be more strategic about the available resources beyond funding, which relates to alliance building, skill sharing, developing collaborations and other forms of resources.

⁵ Shrinking Spaces for Civil Society – also known as Closing Spaces for Civil Society is characterized by state-sponsored restrictions on the fundamental rights of freedom of expression, freedom of association and freedom of peaceful assembly (from Mama Cash and Urgent Action Fund report "Standing Firm: Women and Trans-Led Organizations Respond to Closing Space for Civil Society", 2017 – https://www.mamacash.org/media/publications/mc_closing_space_report_def.pdf)

⁶ "Challenging the Closing Space for Civil Society" (2015) report developed by ARIADNE, EFC and HRFN gives funders and members of civil society a practical points for thinking about possible approaches for working together to contest the closing space for civil society – https://www.ariadne-network.eu/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Ariadne_ClosingSpaceReport-Final-Version.pdf

RESISTING: Beyond Borders - Regional and Sub-Regional Trends and Strategies

During the convening, (geo) political conversations among participants has been ongoing according to their sub-regional, country and issue representation. It is also important to mention that during these conversations, there was an emphasis on not to perpetuate “colonial practices” of dividing participants into confined understanding of subregions and participants were able to select discussion groups according to their interest. As one of the participants shared later **“This convening provided an opportunity to meet feminists from all over the region and getting to know them was very useful and inspiring; also catching similar social/political contexts despite our differences was very exciting and political too!”**

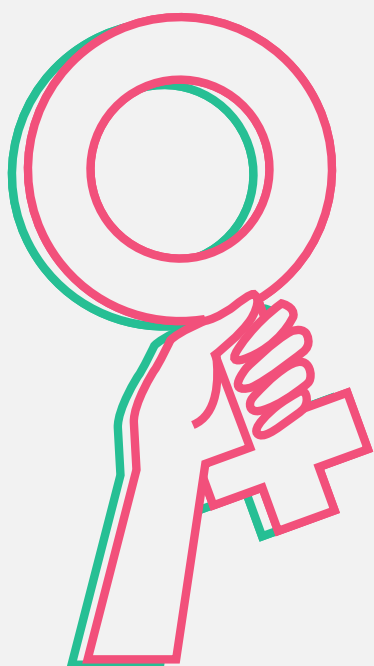
Feminist activists in each sub-region expressed **concerns with the rise of ultra-nationalist, religious fundamentalist groups and repressive, authoritarian governments that reinforce patriarchal views and increase backlash against underrepresented groups:** girls, women, LGBTQIA+, Roma, indigenous women, and migrants. One of the participants [Eka, Georgia] highlighted **“Ultra-nationalist groups are very aggressive; they are well organized and well funded, and in the context of Georgia, are supported by the church and the government.”** Being at the forefront of the struggle, feminist groups are the ones to be attacked first and be silenced along with other human rights defenders.

Experiencing shrinking spaces for civil society is growing throughout the whole region, affecting each and every country. For example, in the case of **Belarus** the media censorship and public surveillance is highly prevalent that creates obstacles for civil society to be vocal and key actor in shaping the social justice politics. In **Ukraine**, public assembly for human rights causes leads to unrest and clash. Marina, participant from Ukraine shares: “when we organize some events we think a lot about security issues in our case we involve police which often leads to unrest.” In the case of **Russia**, many human rights groups had to shut down or leave the country due to hostile political environment, specifically due to legislations that create barriers to the existence of civil society and feminist movements (e.g. foreign agent law). Considering Russian Federation has different republics, participants also highlighted the need to find a specific approach to each republic separately.

North Asia (republics like Buryatia, Yakutiya. The subregion of Asia, consisting of the Russian regions east of the Ural Mountains: Siberia, Ural and the Russian Far East), and post - soviet **Central Asia** (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan) have also seen rise of religious and nationalist fundamentalisms which



tend to deny girls, women, LGBTQIA+ and other underrepresented communities to exercise their rights. Whereas Islam is the dominant religion in **Central Asia**, Buddhism tends to be more prevalent in **North Asia**. Both of these religions have an impact on state policies, which is not always based on human rights approach and standards. Simultaneously, continuous state authoritarianism in these regions curtails freedom of assembly and association, freedom of speech and internet only with rare exception of **Kyrgyzstan**, which is constantly under the threat of becoming more authoritarian.



In order to challenge these dominant religious, state and societal narratives of normalized gender based violence and femicide in both regions, there is emerging young feminist organizing across both regions. **Feminist activists use direct actions, campaigning, art, and media to raise awareness and demonstrate female subjectivity while telling their own stories.** Based on feedback from advisors and grantee partners from Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Republic of Buryatia, there is an urgency for more representation and collaboration. As their brave work is met with attacks and threats, feminist organizers emphasized the importance of safety and security to sustain their organizing.

According to a participant from **Turkey**, who works closely with a feminist group from Armenia, Turkish state has become very oppressive and intolerant towards feminist movement. Law enforcement attack peaceful feminist and LGBTQIA+ marches and protests and often imprison activists. Despite all this backlash, solidarity and friendship continues with cross-border exchange projects.

According to advisors, grantee partners, and a board member representing the **South Caucasus**, there is **an emergence of independent grassroots feminist groups in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia that are connecting across locations, issues and communities.** Newly emerged groups are not quite strong, but have already made an impact on human rights discourse in each country. In the case of Georgia, for example, youth is dominating the movement and have access to information and resources, however it is highly urbanized. **Newly emerged young feminist collectives have need and urgency to connect and build relationships to advance feminist agenda collectively.**

Advisors and grantee-partners from Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria, Romania, Poland, Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and other countries representing **Central Europe and Balkans** shared how they organize internationally, intersectionally, cross-regionally and cross-thematically to resist repressive states and neo-conservative domination.

⁷ Read more about the region from Central Asian feminist perspective, please visit <https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/odr/when-your-field-also-your-home-introducing-feminist-subjectivities-central-asia/>

⁸ Shrinking space for civil society across Europe: what can be done? <http://www.solidar.org/en/news/shrinking-space-for-civil-society-across-europe-what-can-be-done>

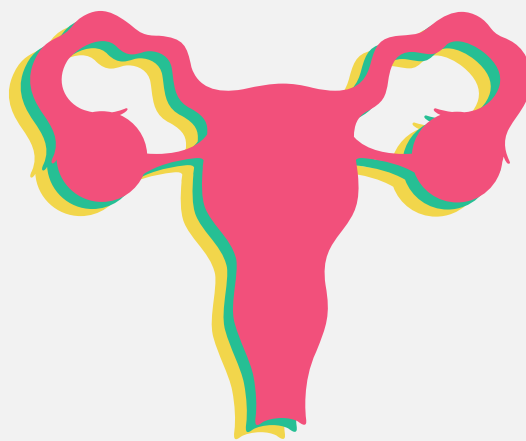
As they currently witness shrinking space for civil society due to state control of funds, they recognize each other as shared value partners and strategize around connecting EU funding between EU and non-EU countries in the region. In the midst of migration and refugee asylum seekers, the governments are becoming increasingly anti-human rights and women are tokenized in parliaments. Additionally, media is being vastly controlled which is used to spread neo-nationalistic, patriarchal and religious fundamentalist hate speech against discriminated communities. However, feminists build strategic alliances with pro-democratic politicians, support resistance in some high level institutions to collectively advocate against oppressive agenda, but without having that much influence and resources as neo-conservative state and movements have.

As one of the underrepresented groups in social justice movement – Roma feminist organizers face various obstacles to lead and fully participate in social justice movement. While grappling with domestic and community related responsibilities, they also face limited access to education and health services which

further hinders their leadership potential to flourish.

As the cases of violence against women are becoming more visible and has contributed to the rise of gender justice movements, **sexual and reproductive rights remains the cross cutting issue across Central Europe and Balkans**. Particularly, in the case of countries where Roma communities reside, **the issue of Roma women sterilization is underrecognized and not treated as serious human rights violations**.

The topic of abortion is one of the priority topics particularly in Poland and Croatia as Catholic church is quite powerful in anti-abortion rhetoric. Whilst funders mostly reacted to already happened anti-abortion movements, young feminists from Poland coordinated mass mobilizations and setup a feminist fund – **FemFund** to support growing resistance, such as “Black Protest”, thus, increasing much needed resources for the movement.



Participants from Balkan especially talked about the need for feminist healing in the region.

As Edina from Bosnia and Herzegovina said **“We will confront divisions in our region and we hope one day we will stand together Bosnians, Croatians, Serbians for one cause. Because of our divided contexts, it is difficult to build a movement, however, despite these obstacles young feminists don't give up and have cross border collaborations that FRIDA supports. This gives us hope.”**

IMAGINING: Feminist Futures - where another World is Possible

The convening allowed participants to pause, dream and develop strategies around the topics that were identified by them. These topics included freedom from violence, girls' movements, activism, holistic security, sexual and reproductive health and rights, LGBTQIA+ rights, and caregiving in activism.

Based on identified topics, participants dreamed together of a feminist future, and created joint strategies and ways of working together to get there. Following the discussion that took place, here are the priorities identified by young feminists in the space and the strategies to attain them:

1. All girls, women, trans and intersex youth will be free of violence, and strong feminist movements are requirement to achieve this priority.

- Gender sensitive education to be one of the tools to make this change.
- Knowledge building, advocacy strategy and more access to reliable information
- Legal and healing support systems that promotes and protects the rights of the survivors of violence
- Strong alliances among like-minded movements to achieve this goal
- Gender sensitive Media



2. Strong, powerful girl-led movements and safer schools

- Support girl-led organizing
- Evidence based and age appropriate sexual education in schools
- Dissolve peer pressure in schools
- Create safe and networking spaces for girls only

3. Feminist Activism that unites activists across geographies

- Have an international feminist art festival that provides space for storytelling, carnivals, theatre, music
- Queer feminist circus
- Feminist artwork to celebrate feminist achievements



4. FRIDA being a role model in holistic security and support activists holistically

- Self-care that leads to collective care, and healthy activism
- Need safe spaces for healing, trauma relief, peer support that encourages to speak out what before considered shameful
- Provide special grants for holistic security



5. Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights are achieved thanks to strong feminist movement

- Body autonomy and abortion rights - women make informed choice, what kind interventions they take
- Lower the number of early and forced marriages
- Sex education in schools: education to prevent gender based violence
- Free menstrual products for everybody and new alternatives
- Knowledge building and advocacy around violence, SRHR
- No more forced sterilization, but sterilization on DEMAND + contraceptives for everyone
- Change of Narrative and work with religious communities and leaders
- More friendly gynecologists and other specialists

6. LGBTQIA+ rights: Communities are so small and need better resources to build international solidarity

- Collaboration across geographies
- Visibility of our identities and issues
- International solidarity movement



7. Motherhood in activism

- Knowledge building around feminist parenthood practices, document experience of feminist mothers, trans, intersex and queer parents
- Need for offline/online spaces for networking of feminist mothers, trans, intersex and queer parents
- Alternative feminist education

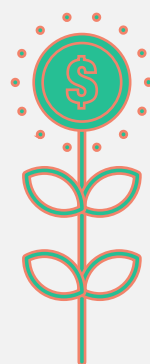
Activists also discussed some burning needs in their movements including greater visibility, collaboration with allied media, strong communications' strategies, outreach to potential allies in the government to influence policies and public opinion, building capacities and skills in various areas, research and documentation.

Diving Deeper: FRIDA's further contribution seen by young feminist from the region

During the convening, participants had a space to dive into conversations around FRIDA's contribution to the young feminist movement and talk about the areas of work, topics or needs that could further support young activists. Most expressed a desire for FRIDA to prioritize post-convening grants, grantee-partner accompaniment programs, global grantee-partner convening and online webinars. Here are the main needs outlined by participants during the meeting that FRIDA could contribute to. **We encourage other funders to look at these priorities and consider them when funding young feminist grass-roots groups, particularly from the CEECCNA region:**

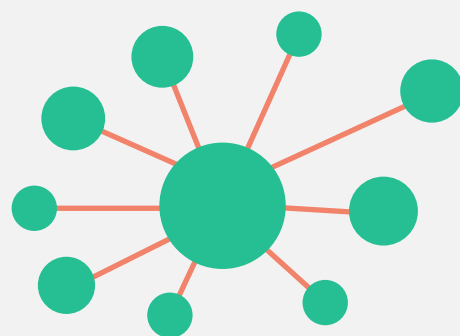
Funding

- Continue to provide core, flexible funding
- Special grants dedicated to safety & security, SRHR issues, and learning exchange visits
- Timely/Responsive Funding opportunities for internal or external crisis situations
- Funding for creative collaborations, post convening projects
- Making connections with other donors



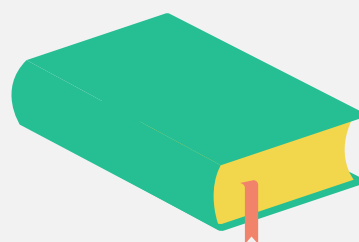
Networking

- Identity-based networking meetings (for example, only for teenage girls)
- Self-organized spaces
- Outreach with other activists
- Both sub-regional and thematic meetings
- Peer learning and experience exchanges



Resources

- Zines, books, websites
- Non-formal, accessible education
- Repository of feminist knowledge



Safe spaces

- More safe physical spaces
- Face-to-face meetings
- Holistic security support



Capacity building

- Offline trainings, seminars, workshops
- Online webinars
- Training in self-financing and sustainability
- Training in institutional fundraising
- Advocacy training
- Knowledge building training



Collective care

- Celebrate and acknowledge activists
- Integrate collective care into meeting agendas



Co-creating: FRIDA's commitment to increase post-convening engagement:

Building on the needs and aspirations of convening participants to continue collaboration, FRIDA launched a Special Grant Fund that is specifically dedicated to collective actions to be taken by participants after the convenings. FRIDA believes that convenings are critical for young feminist movement building and build 'safe/brave spaces' to contribute to solidarity building. Despite the critical impact and value of these spaces, FRIDA recognizes that one convening does not necessarily contribute to strengthening movement building efforts. Therefore, FRIDA envisions regional and international convenings as a key initiative that is part of a larger collective, participatory and feminist journey where alliances, ideas, knowledge and experiences shared and built are taken forward beyond in-person meetings.

After the convening, in November 2018, FRIDA launched a special fund for post convening grants. These grants aimed to support co-creation and innovation between grantee partners and/or advisors from the FRIDA community who participated in the regional convening to build solidarity and trust, strengthen relationships, and spark shared learning and knowledge exchange.



During the open call period (November 2018 - January 2019), FRIDA received 11 collaborative proposals submitted by advisors and grantee partners who participated at the CEECCNA convening and supported 6 collaborative initiatives. Staying true to the participatory decision making practice, FRIDA ensured that peer review committee consisted of grantee partners, advisors and staff from the region.

The post-convening grants made it possible for the participants to embody collective dreams, ideas, and actions that were sparked during the convening.

It ignited inter-regional collaborations as well as collaborations among activist groups from the same country, some of which never had an experience of working together before despite living in the same country or city. For example, FRIDA advisors and grantee partners from Kyrgystan plan to write and publish feminist fairy tales for children in three languages. Post convening grants created space for sub-regional dialogue and collaboration in South Caucasus as well; it aimed to mobilize young activists from Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan for a two-day peace hackathon focused on ideating and innovating digital tech solutions. Other projects included peer work through skills and knowledge sharing, activism and deepening community collaborations in Ukraine as well as in Czech Republic and Slovenia.



III. OVERALL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FUNDING COMMUNITY

Based on the learnings and conversation that took part during the CEECCNA convening, we decided to share some of the recommendations and thoughts that donor community might find useful in understanding the needs of the region and exploring ways of supporting young feminist activism

- Based on the discussions during advisory meeting and convening, it is evident that feminist movement in each sub-region **needs access to a larger resources to build feminist alternatives.** It is particularly critical that feminist and women's funds continue to operate in the region and support issues that most funders de-funded or never funded before. It is also important to recognize diversity of each sub-region, language, culture, needs.

- During the convening, young feminist organizers emphasized **the need for flexible, unrestricted funding** that would support proactive, sustained-over- time initiatives based on identified priorities of feminist groups themselves and not only respond to emergency situations. Participants also highlighted that funders should recognize and support political autonomy and sustainability of feminist movement.

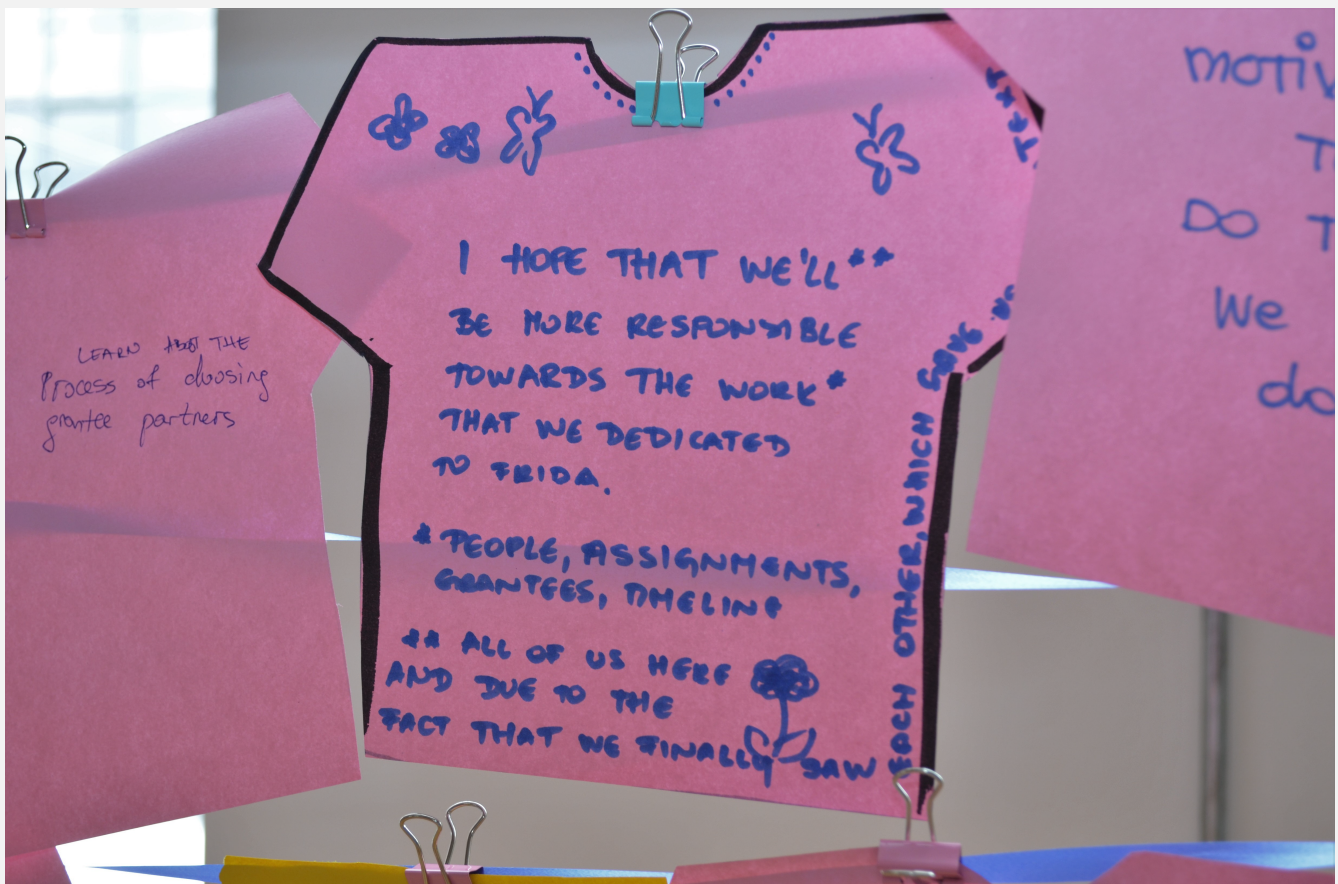
- Young feminists in the region demand **inclusion of grassroots feminist**, as well as **region and thematic specific expertise** when funding priorities are being informed. FRIDA community members in the region push for more coordinated philanthropic advocacy around funding in the region that involves FRIDA community members in advancing feminist funding. **In case you have an advisory board, invite grassroots young feminists to be part of it to gather their regional and thematic expertise!**

- **Autonomous resourcing** is increasingly important for feminist movement to be creative, strategic and independent in their approach to address rising fundamentalisms and authoritarianism in the region. This practice not only allows movement actors to respond, but also build more sustainable ways that directly support the liberatory aims of feminist political projects on their own terms. This is also one of the ways how funders can support autonomous resourcing initiatives by providing start - up capital/funding to ensure their successful start.

⁹ To learn more about Autonomous Resourcing you can read the article: "What we can learn from feminists who fund themselves" by Tenzin Dolker [https://www-
www.awid.org/news-and-analysis/what-we-can-learn-feminists-who-fund-themselves](https://www.awid.org/news-and-analysis/what-we-can-learn-feminists-who-fund-themselves)

Going beyond funding!

We invite funders working in the region to re-think how they engage and support young feminist movements beyond funding. Feminist activists continue emphasizing the importance of connecting & collaborating within and beyond borders on a regular basis. These connections are particularly vital to check-in with each other, evaluate and reflect on current trends, provide space for retreat in order to address tensions, trauma and feel the power of being together. It is important to provide funding resources for young feminist organizers to independently organize the convenings - and overall their activist work, which in turn increases accountability and ownership of the movement over their own processes. We encourage funders to support de-centralized, horizontal skills and knowledge sharing opportunities based on identified priorities of the young feminist organizers.



Don't forget to check convening video gallery >>>
<http://bit.ly/fridaconvening>

